





BELEN BOARD OF EDUCATION OATHS OF OFFICE



Newly-elected member of the Belen Board of Education Ralph Fernandez, center, took his oath of office on Tuesday, Jan. 9. His wife, Roxanne, left, held the Bible while Belen Magistrate John Chavez, right, administered the oath. Fernandez, who was elected by the board members to serve as the vice president of the board for this year, represents District 3.



Aubrey Tucker, center, was sworn into office as a member of the Belen Board of Education for his second term on Tuesday, Jan. 9. His wife, Celeste, left, held the Bible while Belen Magistrate John Chavez, right, administered the oath. Tucker represents District 2, which includes parts of Valencia and Socorro counties. He was re-elected by his fellow board members to serve as board president this year.

LOS LUNAS BOARD OF EDUCATION OATHS OF OFFICE



Michelle Osowski, Ph.D., accompanied by her husband, John, was sworn in by Los Lunas Municipal Judge Avillo Chavez as the new Los Lunas Schools Board of Education member representing District 4. The new board also voted Osowski in as new board president.



Monica Otero, accompanied by her brother, Manuel, was sworn in as the new LLS Board of Education member representing District 2 by Los Lunas Municipal Judge Avillo Chavez. Otero was also voted in as the vice president of the board.



Justin Talley was sworn in as the new Los Lunas School Board of Education member representing District 1, by 13th Judicial District Court Judge Allen R. Smith. Talley was accompanied by his wife, Ruth Talley.

Packets of Love to help and support unhoused

By Julia M. Dendinger  
News-Bulletin Assistant Editor

LOS LUNAS

A mother's pain of more than five years has turned into an act of love.

When Yvonne Vallejos' son, Jonathon Saiz, was killed in 2018 it was a devastation that started to lead her down a dark path.

"I was starting to think things that ..." She pauses. "I had to give it to God."

In May 2018, the body of Saiz, of Los Chavez, was found in a car in southeast Albuquerque. Video footage of him with two men at the Albuquerque Downs race track surfaced, but led nowhere. To date, no one has been charged in his death.

Vallejos knew she had to do something to keep going and to honor her son. She decided to help people who, for one reason or another, were living on the street.

"As an adult, Jonathon did live

on the street sometimes, and there were a lot of people who helped him, who would lend him a phone so he could call me," Vallejos said. "That is one thing I'm grateful for. I got to talk to him and say 'I love you' before he was killed. I know people have strong opinions about those who are homeless, but they are still people and they deserve to be safe and warm and cared for."

"At first, we were very involved in the investigation — going into places to talk to people the police told us to stay out of. We're the ones who found that video," Vallejos said. "There's been nothing at all since. I'm very frustrated."

"I had to do something out of love, to honor Jonathon. There are a lot of good people out there who just need a little help. They are people and they deserve that."

Vallejos created an event called Packets of Love, where community members assemble bags of essential items to be distributed

to unhoused people. In 2018 and 2019, she held it in October, but then COVID interrupted. She tried to regain momentum last year but couldn't. Thinking it was a lost cause, out of the blue Vallejos heard from the Belen Moose Riders Post 1680. The philanthropic group was looking for a project.

The lodge, at 19482 N.M. 314 in Belen, will have a donation box for items for the event, which starts at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 27, at the Buffalo Wild Wings in Los Lunas. Vallejos said donations can be taken to the restaurant on the day of the event and if community members want to help assemble the bags, they are more than welcome.

After the packets are put together, Vallejos and the riders will distribute them to individuals in the Los Lunas area and to Grace NM Church, 3384 N.M. 47, Los Lunas, for distribution during the church's free meal, which is served from 4-5 p.m. every

Wednesdays.

Items needed

- Beanies
- Gloves
- Socks (men and women)
- Scarves
- Emergency blankets
- Small/regular bottled water
- Gum
- Individually wrapped candy
- Tooth brushes
- Tooth paste
- Gallon zip lock bags
- Travel size: Shampoo and conditioner
- Body wash
- Deodorant
- Cleansing wipes
- Menstrual pads/tampons
- Hair ties
- Hair brush
- Small snacks (no opening device needed)

DataBank

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- Consideration of appointment of mayor pro tem
- Consideration of procedures for requesting inspection of public records
- Consideration of NMDOT local government road fund
- Consideration of NMOT transportation project fund
- Consideration of budget adjustment request

If you would like the VCNB to publish a photo, a celebration such as an engagement, wedding or anniversary, call 505-823-7802 or email [cgarcia@news-bulletin.com](mailto:cgarcia@news-bulletin.com).

# Valencia County

## Church Directory

**Valencia County Cowboy Church**

Sunday Church Service 10:00 am  
Sunday: Adult Bible Study 9:00 am  
Monday: Bunkhouse 4:00 pm / Bible Study 6:30 pm  
Tuesday: Youth Group (13-18 years old) 6:00 pm  
Wednesday: Bible Study 6:30 pm  
Thursday: Bible Study 6:30 pm  
1 AT&T Road  
Los Lunas, NM (off Hwy 6)  
(505) 907-3500  
[valenciacountycowboychurch.com](http://valenciacountycowboychurch.com)

**Valley Church of Christ**

Times we meet:  
Sunday - Bible Classes 9:30 am  
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am  
Ladies Monday Bible Class 10:00 am  
505.389.3010  
Preacher: Les Earwood 505.916.4601  
[ValleyCofC@LosLunas@icloud.com](mailto:ValleyCofC@LosLunas@icloud.com)  
407 HWY 314 NW • LOS LUNAS, NM 87031  
"A place you can call home"

**Abundant Life Christian Center**  
Pastor Barney Carbajal III  
105 Avenida del Fuego  
864-3743  
Non-Denominational  
Sundays:  
English Service 10:00 am  
Intercessory Prayer 9:30-10:00 am  
Wednesday Midweek Service 6:45 pm  
Nursery provided  
Free Downloadable MP3 Messages at [alcctoday.org](http://alcctoday.org)

**ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
Welcomes You  
Holy Communion Service Sunday 9:15am  
113 La Luna Place  
Rio Communities  
505.864.7954  
[St.Philips.Rio.Communities@gmail.com](mailto:St.Philips.Rio.Communities@gmail.com)  
Father Steve, Vicar

**CALVARY CHAPEL**  
*no grande valley*  
Sunday 8:30am/11am  
Spanish Translation/Kid's Church  
Deaf Interpretation  
Wednesday 7pm  
Spanish Translation/Kid's Church  
Youth Group  
Pastor Ray Jaramillo  
19381 N. Hwy 314 • Belen  
[CCRGV.COM](http://CCRGV.COM) • 505.864.6611

**CHRISTIAN FAITH CHAPEL**  
1226 South Main Belen, NM 87002  
505-463-5558  
Pastor Rudy M. Espinoza  
Church Services:  
Sundays 10:00 am  
Thursdays 7:00 pm  
Children's Church & Nursery Provided  
Bible Studies:  
Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays at 7:00am  
Women's Bible Study: Wednesdays at 8:00am  
[cfcbelennm@gmail.com](mailto:cfcbelennm@gmail.com)

**FIRST BAPTIST BOSQUE FARMS**  
REAL TRUTH • REAL LIFE  
Pastor Brian Mull  
Worship Sunday 10:30AM, Wednesday 6:30PM  
Prayer Gathering, Children's Church, Ladies & Men's Bible Study, MOPS, Small Focused Groups from Birth - Grade 12, Choir, Fellowship.  
Visit our website for a full calendar of Mission Events, Organizations & Services  
[www.fbcbf.com](http://www.fbcbf.com) | 505.869.2759

**First United Methodist Church**  
Joe MacDonald, Pastor  
Home of Watch Me Grow Preschool  
Sally Ellledge, Director  
Sunday  
9:00 am Contemporary Praise Worship  
10:15 am Adult Sunday School  
11:00 am Traditional Worship  
Children Sunday School or Nursery (Available during Worship Times)  
4:00-6:00 pm Youth Group  
Please check website for other activities  
[www.firstumcbelen.org](http://www.firstumcbelen.org)

**VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
ELCA  
Sunday worship 10am  
Communion is open to all  
Bible Study Wednesday 5:30pm  
3259 Highway 47, PO Box 667  
Los Lunas, NM 87031  
505-865-6169  
[Vic30@qwestoffice.net](mailto:Vic30@qwestoffice.net)  
A little church with a big heart

**First Presbyterian Church of Belen**  
85 Manzano Expressway  
In Rio Communities  
505-864-4560  
Worship Service Sunday 10 am  
For full schedule visit:  
[firstpresbelen.org](http://firstpresbelen.org)  
Like our Facebook page  
Streaming Live on YouTube & Facebook on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM



Abraham Kempenich's grave marker in Fairview Cemetery.



## Merchants

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mentions of his visits to Albuquerque in the society and "goings on" columns of the *Albuquerque Journal* and the *Albuquerque Citizen*. He was also a member of the Albuquerque Elks Lodge.

Abraham and his family were active with Congregation Albert in Albuquerque, and he was buried in the Jewish section of Fairview Cemetery in Albuquerque after his death on Aug. 19, 1905.

After Abraham's death, his wife, Jenny, and two of their three sons, Paul and Eugene, ran the store. Unfortunately, Jenny was destined to bury both sons.

Paul fell victim to the 1918 Spanish flu epidemic, and on the morning of Oct. 8, 1921, Eugene was found lying beside his bed, wearing a pair of silk pajamas, with a revolver under his hand, dead from a single gunshot wound to his back.

After immigrating with his family, Eugene had become a prominent New Mexico businessman

and politician. He owned a trading post in eastern Arizona, had been active in Sandoval County politics, and was serving on the State Highway Commission when he was shot.

The circumstances surrounding his death suggest that sometime in the early afternoon of Oct. 7, Eugene had either seen, met or talked to someone who had threatened him. He apparently rushed home from a previous appointment in Moriarty, but when the threat did not immediately materialize, he changed into his night clothes and went to bed, keeping a revolver under his pillow. Sometime during the night, he was shot as he slept.

Despite the best efforts of Sheriff Joe Tondre, the murder was never solved, although the rumor was that he was shot "because of highway business." Consistent with the earlier observation regarding Moses Sachs, there was no implication of anti-Semitism mentioned in connection with the crime.

Eugene is buried in the Congregation Albert cemetery in Albuquerque.



**Valencila County Sheriff  
Joe Tondre**

With two of her sons dead within three years, Jenny sold the property to Henry Wortman, a former German soldier who had been employed by the Kempenichs (and one of the two men who had found Eugene's body). Together with his family, Wortman ran the store and acted as postmaster until 1944.

By the early 1950s, the plaza across from the church included Wortman's store, a bus stop, the Post Office, a small bar on the south end and a Sinclair gas station with two pumps. The entire building



**A view of the Peralta portal  
as it was burning in 1954.**

was stuccoed in white with red trim.

The portal burned down in the spring of 1954 and was not rebuilt. Today, a collision repair shop and vacant restaurant stand approximately where the original building used to be.

(This story will be continued in the next edition of *La Historia*.)





